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WEOBLEY RURAL DISTRICT

HEREFORDSHIRE

JOINT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Public Health Inspector

for the Year

1955

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December, 1955)

Sir D. T. L. Bailey, Bart.	...	...	Brinsop and Wormesley
D. G. Bulmer	...	...	Canon Pyon
Sir W. F. Cornwall, Bart.	...	...	Moccas
Sir R. G. C. Cotterell, Bart. (Chairman of the Rating Committee)			Mansel Gamage
Major J. L. Davenport	...	...	Yazor
T. G. Davies	...	...	Kinnersley and Sarnesfield
A. J. Haimes	...	...	Bishopstone
E. F. Harris	...	...	Birley
H. G. J. Havard (Chairman of the Water and Sewerage Committee)			Dilwyn
J. L. Hughes	...	...	Norton Canon
J. O. Jenkins (Chairman of the Council)	...	...	Dilwyn
W. G. Jenkins	...	...	Almeley
A. I. Lewis	...	...	Brobury and Monnington-on-Wye
H. T. Patrick	...	...	Dilwyn
Brigadier S. T. Polley (Chairman of the Finance Committee)	...	...	Mansel Lacy
A. E. Price	...	...	Letton
T. E. Pugh	...	...	Blakemere
C. Richards	...	...	Staunton-on-Wye
J. P. Scott (Vice-Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee)			Weobley
L. E. Thomas	...	...	Eardisland and Stretford
W. A. R. Vale	...	...	Weobley
Major W. R. D. Verdin	...	...	King's Pyon
W. J. Whiting	...	...	Preston-on-Wye
R. Williams	...	...	Eardisland and Stretford
R. Wright	...	...	Bridge Sollars and Byford
J. H. Yeomans	...	...	Canon Pyon
Clerk to the Council	...	...	A. E. F. Dear
Deputy Clerk to the Council			Miss H. M. Patrick
Medical Officer of Health	...	...	I F. MACKENZIE, M.D. (Edin), D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
Public Health Inspector, Building Surveyor and Water Engineer	...	...	LEONARD MORLEY, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., M.A.R.D.S., Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Public Health Inspector	I. C. PROWSE, Cert. R.S.I., S.I.E.J.B. (Commenced appointment 20th June 1955 and resigned 31st January, 1956)
Pests Officer	 T. NICHOLLS. (Part time appointment with Dore and Bredwardine R.D.C.)
Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health	C. A. PREECE.
Clerk to the Public Health Inspector	MISS E. PHILLIPS.

To the Chairman and Members of the Weobley Rural District Council.
Mr. Chairman, Miss Brewster, Gentlemen,

I present herewith the Annual Report for 1955 which has been prepared jointly by the Public Health Inspector and myself.

In contrast with 1954 when fourteen cases of Scarlet Fever occurred, only five were notified in the year under review. For over a decade the incidence of this disease has been low, and the character of the few cases occurring has been so mild that people tend to treat it lightly. Except in those instances in which the persons affected are engaged in the food trade, there is no danger to public health from the changed attitude to this infection.

It will be recalled that an outbreak of Measles occurred involving 106 children. As serious complications were few, the epidemic did not occasion anxiety, even though, as frequently occurs, there was an increase, simultaneously, in the prevalence of Whooping Cough. It is of interest to mention that in the course of the epidemic of 1953, 197 cases were notified; and 117 in 1948 the next preceding year with a high incidence.

Typhoid Fever has become a very uncommon disease in this country, even though it is still prevalent on the Continent. The case that was notified in our district in 1955 was a small schoolboy, a farm-worker's son, who had become infected by being on friendly terms with a man who lived in the neighbourhood. This man was a chronic carrier of the bacillus. He had, presumably, become a carrier after having suffered from the disease in an acute form during the 1914-18 war. The investigations that were carried out to try and discover the source of the boy's infection revealed that all relatives with whom the boy had associated, and all near and remote contacts were free from the germ with the exception of this carrier. When his own chronic infection was revealed, he admitted having given the boy sandwiches and sweets from time to time when he and the father were working in the fields and the child was playing near them. It is presumed that this was the means by which the boy contracted the infection.

Fifteen new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, the majority of them being persons ordinarily resident in the district. In spite of the substantial number of new cases, there has been a fall in the number of names on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year as compared with the total at the end of 1954. Then it was 82; now it is 75. This has resulted from the movement of cases away from the district, and from the recovery of others, with consequent deletion of their names from the register. It is to be expected that in the course of coming years there will be a progressive fall in the occurrence of

Tuberculosis in the community, when the cumulative effect of better housing, of B.C.G. Vaccination of children against Tuberculosis, and of the detection of unsuspected chronic cases or early cases by the increasingly efficient service operated through the chest clinic, the Hospital Board's Miniature Radiography Unit, and the family doctors, reduces the number of new cases reported annually.

It will be noted that the birth rate for the district is higher than that for England and Wales. It is, in fact, well above the rate for any other rural district in the county; and also above that for the county as a whole which, for 1955, was 15.7 per thousand estimated population. One of the main factors in raising our rate is the continued use of Foxley Camp as a temporary housing estate. All babies born to persons resident there (60 births out of 158 for the whole district) are credited to Weobley Rural District, even though many of the parents are Hereford people or are war-displaced persons.

Under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, the Council was required to prepare by 30th August 1955, a programme for the replacement of property in the district that is unfit for human habitation. As no systematic housing survey had been completed in our area, only an estimate of our unfit houses could be submitted to the Minister. Accordingly he was informed that of the 1,786 houses in the district, approximately 105 were deemed to be suitable for inclusion in the category of houses fit only for demolition.

The fact that little material progress took place during the year with the projected comprehensive water scheme for the district means, among other things, that the selection of sites on which to build houses for the replacement of unfit dwellings has not been made any easier. Difficulties with water supply must make the Council hesitant about following the Ministry's advice to proceed urgently with preparatory work, which for us, at this stage, would involve the selection and acquisition of sites in several parts of the district.. This hesitation will undoubtedly remain until it has become clear that piped water will become available within the district within a stated number of years.. The attempt made by the Council to have the local schemes for Eardisland and Dilwyn approved separately from the comprehensive scheme in order to hasten the provision of piped water in these villages, did not find favour with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The decision of the Ministry was that all should be dealt with together.

In connection with the action we must take under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, I think I should refer to a point that is certain to become of greater importance to us in the future if a substantial number of our tenants are to be drawn from unfit condemned property in accordance with government policy. One cannot overlook the fact that though most of the people in these unfit houses are respectable folk who would make good tenants, others are not; and these socially unadaptable, problem families may (as the Public Health Inspector to another Rural District Council in North Herefordshire has just warned his Authority) lower the general standard on Council housing estates by driving other people away. This problem is one that has to be faced all over the country. A report on this subject, prepared by a sub-committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee was published by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in June 1955. It deals thoroughly with all aspects of the problem and numerous authorities, including our own County Council, submitted evidence. With such an intractable problem, it is not surprising that the sub-committee's recommendations are disappointing and would prove very difficult for an authority such as ours to implement..

Members will remember that in June 1953, the Council received a report from the Consulting Engineers regarding improvements and alterations to the Sewage Disposal Works at Weobley. As these proposals were deemed to be essential, a scheme was submitted to the Ministry sometime later; and it now falls to me to record that the Council entered into a contract during the year under review, for the construction of new works adjacent to the existing sewage treatment plant.

It was with regret that the Council received, and we, his colleagues learned, of the resignation of Mr. C. G. Williams, Clerk to the Council, on account of protracted ill health. The association of the Health Department with the Clerk to the Council is, in view of the nature of our work, always close; and because of that I think it right to record in this annual report his premature termination of office.

Your Public Health Inspector and I would like to acknowledge our appreciation of the keen interest taken by the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committee in our day to day administration. We find this to be not only an encouragement to us, but an incentive as well.

I. F. MACKENZIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Office: 4, Church Street, Leominster.

Telephone No.: Leominster 2595.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	49,727
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,920
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) according to the Rate Books)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,206
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£22,462
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£90

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	...	152	82	70
(Illegitimate)	...	6	2	4
	Total	158		
STILL BIRTHS (Legitimate)	...	5	1	4
(Illegitimate)	...	—		
	Total	5		
DEATHS	...	72	32	40
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES		Nil		
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Legitimate)	...	6	3	3
(Illegitimate)	...	—		
		6		

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1955.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	...	...	...	...	22.8
Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	15.0
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births)	...	...	...	...	30.7
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	23.1
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	...	...	...	...	10.4
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	...	...	...	...	38.0
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	24.9

WATER SUPPLIES

The village water scheme at Weobley is still the only public water supply in the district although the Council's proposals for the development of a regional scheme to supply other parts of the area were deposited with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government at Whitehall during May 1953.

Since that time negotiations for sites have been proceeding and at the close of the year there was very little progress to report, a delay having occurred over the acquisition of the Foxley Reservoir site.

There has also been further discussions regarding the proposal to set up a Water Board for the County.

No cases of water shortage were reported during the year insofar as the Weobley Village was concerned.

The estimated average daily flow from the springs being 24,540 g.p.d., whilst the estimated average daily consumption of water from this supply was 16,588 g.p.d. (an increase of 3,688 g.p.d. over 1954).

In view of the continued delay in connection with the proposed regional water supply scheme it was decided during the early months of the year to install an electrically operated chlorinating apparatus on the Weobley Village Supply.

This machine was set in motion towards the end of June and has since functioned very satisfactorily.

In addition the Council purchased an approved type of apparatus for recording the amount of residual chlorine present in the water and this also has proved to be a great asset.

During the month of May further difficulties were experienced with the hydrostat ram pump which supplies water to the Hurst Farms.

This somewhat antiquated piece of machinery has been a source of trouble, intermittently for years and finally during May it was agreed that a small piston pump be purchased and installed at the Hurst with a view to dispensing with the hydrostat.

The new pump was installed by direct labour during October and since that time has functioned satisfactorily, also it has been possible to pump a greater volume of water to the farms in question.

DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLIES.

Individual Houses with Piped water	...	...	...	...	136
Houses supplied from stand pipes	...	...	...	...	6
Metered Supplies (School, Farms, etc.)	...	...	...	...	6

During the year four additional connections were installed, one to an existing property which previously had been supplied by means of a standpipe and three to new dwellings.

PARISH WATER SUPPLIES.

The greater portion of the area is still dependent on wells or springs for supplies although parts of the parishes of Mansell Lacy, Yazor and Byford receive a piped supply from the Byford Installation.

Small private supplies are in use at Eardisland, Mansell Gamage, Almeley, Canon Pyon, and Staunton-on-Wye.

WATER FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

The Council's proposals for the installation of a 3in. main extending from the Leominster Borough Council's main at Hyde Ash to supply farms in the Dorestone area of Birley and parts of Dilwyn has been taken a stage further during the year

The Council have been informed of the amount of grant they are likely to receive from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and it is hoped that before long it will be possible to commence main laying as this part of the area, from an agricultural point of view, is very poorly supplied with water from local sources.

WATER SUPPLIES FOR COUNCIL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

(a) Dilwyn Housing Scheme.

Throughout the year this scheme has functioned very satisfactorily and supplies sixteen local authority dwellings, one small holding, the School and two farm connections.

There has been no evidence of water shortage so far as this bore-hole is concerned in fact, the indications are that this supply could be extended should it be considered requisite.

(b) Eardisland Housing Scheme.

This scheme also has proved to be reliable and fully satisfactory.

An abundance of water is available at this source, the quantity and quality of this supply is sufficient to supply the whole of Eardisland village.

(c) Almeley Housing Scheme.

During the year the supply on this site was extended to provide water for an additional thirteen houses under construction.

The 20ft. high water tower was erected by direct labour. At the close of the year a slight delay occurred in connection with the supply, pending delivery of the "No-flete" control apparatus.

THE EXAMINATION AND SAMPLING OF WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year 232 water samples were submitted for either chemical or bacteriological examination as follows:

Table of Samples Submitted for Bacteriological Examination

		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Public Supply (Weobley)	Chlorinated	13	—	13
"	Raw Water	9	3	12
Council Houses:	Almeley	6	2	8
	Bishopstone	2	—	2
	Canon Pyon	—	3	3
	Dilwyn	10	—	10
	Eardisland	5	—	5
	Norton Canon	1	1	2
Other Supplies (wells, springs, and private supplies)		89	85	174
		135	94	229

Table of Samples Submitted for Chemical Examination

		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Almeley Housing Scheme	...	1	—	1
Dilwyn Housing Scheme	...	1	—	1
Weobley Water Scheme	...	1	—	1
Other Supplies (private supplies)	...	—	2	2
		3	2	5

Out of a total of 174 samples obtained from wells or other private sources of supplies not less than 85 (or 49%) were found to be unsatisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No complaints have been received during the year regarding the existing Weobley Sewage Disposal Works and during the latter part of the year Ministry approval was obtained for the construction of the proposed new works.

Sewer flushing has been carried out by the Council's staff when considered necessary.

From time to time complaints have been received regarding the Dilwyn Village Sewer Outfall and the Council subsequently resolved that the Consulting Engineers' proposals for the installation of sewers and construction of Sewage Disposal Works at Dilwyn should be forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Throughout the year the collection service has been satisfactorily maintained and from time to time, on the instructions of the Council, the service has been extended to cover further dwellings at Garnstone, Weobley; Nunsland, Eardisland; Garnons Mansion House and Stables; Oak Tree Cottage, Dilwyn; New House, Almeley; and Station View Farm, Almeley

The volume of refuse placed out for collection is also on the increase, and if this continues it is considered possible that the present collection scheme will require revision.

Every effort is made to keep the tip at Stretford tidy and tipped refuse is covered with soil or similar materials when available.

The use of the tip at Shenmore has been discontinued at the request of the owner and enquiries are being made with a view to obtaining tipping facilities somewhere in the Southern part of the Council's area.

From January 1st to December 31st the vehicle travelled a total of 6,186 miles. Of this 6,009 were in connection with refuse collection and for the remainder (117 miles) the vehicle was engaged on other work, for which it would formerly have been necessary to employ a haulage Contractor.

The estimated average miles per gallon is 7.1.

Clean waste paper and cardboard are accepted for salvage, if placed out for collection. This material is baled when the opportunity arises and is sold to the paper mills.

SYNOPSIS OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

As required in accordance with provisions of Paragraph 18 of Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935.

Inspections under:—	Number.	Informal Notices Served.	Statutory Notices Served.	Notices Complied With.
Building Inspections and New Buildings (including drain tested)	321	—	—	—
Building Byelaws	3	—	—	—
Building Plans	56	—	—	—
Council House Maintenance and Management	145	—	—	—
Council Housing Schemes ...	362	—	—	—
Council House Tenancy Investi- gations	97	—	—	—
Drainage	32	6	—	6
Disinfections	8	—	—	—
Disinfestations	8	—	—	—
Establishment	41	—	—	—
Factories Act, 1937	5	—	—	—
Food Premises	29	3	—	3
Housing Act, 1949	57	—	—	—
Housing Inspections	220	8	—	8
Hop Pickers Dwellings	15	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases	16	—	—	—
Licensed Premises	2	2	—	2
Lodging Houses	4	1	—	1
Meat Inspection	94	—	—	—
Milk Supplies and Samples ...	25	4	—	4
Miscellaneous	91	—	—	—
Moveable Dwellings	8	—	—	—
Nuisances	29	—	—	—
Overcrowded Dwellings	3	—	—	—
Petroleum Inspections	3	—	—	—
Planning Duties	3	—	—	—
Refuse Collection and Disposal...	25	—	—	—
Rodent Control	2	2	—	2
Rural Water Supplies Survey (Bishopstone Area)	51	—	—	—
Sale of Ice-Cream	7	—	—	—
Sewage Disposal	162	—	—	—
Unsound Food	2	—	—	—
Water Supplies and Samples ...	407	1	—	1
Totals	2,333	27	—	27

RODENT CONTROL—SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND TREATMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1955.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business Premises).	Total
Total number of properties in local authority's district	12	1750	125	383	2270
Number of properties inspected by local authority during 1955 as a result of notification ...	Nil	4	Nil	2	6
Number of properties inspected by local authority during 1955 as a result of survey ...	12	1183	358	17	1570
Total number of visits made during 1955 ..	67	1414	791	213	2485
Number of properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested with rats.	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	1
	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested with mice.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Nil	5	Nil	Nil	5
Number of infested properties treated by local authority ...	5	124	Nil	Nil	129
Number of notices served under (1) Treatment Section 4.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Structural Works (i.e.) Proofing ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	2
Number of cases in which default action was taken by local authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Legal Proceedings ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of block control schemes carried out ...	Nil	12	Nil	Nil	12

THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949—RODENT CONTROL.

Throughout the year at intervals of two months the Council's Rodent Inspector has proceeded with a routine survey of the entire area. Also, Local Authority Properties (sewers; refuse tips, etc.) have been treated with poison bait at regular intervals.

Treatment of dwellings and business premises is carried out on notification, or as a result of district survey.

The Council does not undertake the treatment of farm premises. This is discharged by the Agricultural Executive Committee and constant liaison is maintained with the Committee's Rodent Officers.

The preceeding table describes the properties dealt with and visits made during the year in connection with Rodent Control.

Block control schemes are carried out when, after survey, it has been ascertained that two or more adjoining properties are infested.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are no large factories within the Rural Area and the number of persons employed in such factories as exist is quite small.

The list of factories within the Rural Area is as follows:

Parish.				FACTORIES		Total	Other Premises
				Mechanical Power with	without		
Almeley	...	...	...	2	—	2	—
Blakemere	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Byford	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Canon Pyon	...	...	...	1	—	1	2
Dilwyn	...	...	...	3	—	3	1
Eardisland	...	...	...	—	—	—	2
Kinnersley	...	...	...	—	—	—	2
Moccas	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
Norton Canon	...	...	...	—	—	—	1
Preston-on-Wye	...	...	...	1	—	1	1
Weobley	...	...	...	6	—	6	1
Totals:				14	—	14	10

The "Other Premises" described in the list of factories include workshops such as tradesmen's premises at which no-one except the owner or owners are employed. These premises are outside the definition of "Factory" as described in the Act.

HOUSING AND BUILDING DEVELOPMENT.

Progress with Council Housing Schemes has to a large extent been held up pending approval of the proposed regional water scheme.

The Housing Scheme at Eardisland was completed during the year.

Also ten houses at Weobley, four at Dilwyn and two at Almeley were completed and occupied.

A SUMMARY OF COUNCIL HOUSING SCHEMES IS AS FOLLOWS:

Parish.	Completed.	Year.	Under Construction.	Year.	Schemes in Preparatory stages.	Year.
Almeley	8	1951	—	—	—	—
	2	1955	11	1955	—	—
Bishopstone	2	1945	—	—	—	—
Canon Pyon	2	1945	—	—	24	1953
Dilwyn	12	1953	—	—	—	—
	4	1955	—	—	—	—
Eardisland	4	1954	—	—	—	—
	15	1955	—	—	—	—
Norton Canon	2	1944	—	—	12	1952
Staunton-on-Wye ...	—	—	—	—	32	1952
Weobley	14	1949	—	—	—	—
	10	1955	31	1955	—	—
(conversion)	1	1948				
(conversions)	2	1952				
(conversions)	5	1952				
Totals:	83		42		68	

PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

Ten new private dwellings were completed during the year and the construction of a further eight was commenced.

Three private dwellings were erected during the year on sites provided by the Council.

Wherever possible the utmost assistance has been given by the Staff to promote private building.

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

A total of five improvement schemes were approved by the Council during the year and two further schemes were submitted but not approved.

Since 1952 (when the Council first adopted the scheme) a total of 25 improvement schemes have been approved by the Council, one of which was later withdrawn by the applicant.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

The Housing Survey was commenced in June 1955 by the Council's Additional Public Health Inspector, Mr. I. C. Prowse.

HOUSING FINANCIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS ACTS, 1938 and 1946.

One application for financial assistance under this Act in respect of two agricultural cottages was received and approved by the Council during the year.

COUNCIL OFFICES AND ESTABLISHMENT.

The scheme for the conversion of part of Whitehill House into Council Offices was practically completed during March when it was possible for the staff to move in.

The new accommodation is a big improvement upon the former offices in Hereford Road and may possibly be considered to be equal to accommodation provided by any other Rural District Council in the County.

BUILDING PLANS.

A total of 126 applications were dealt with during the twelve months ending December 31st as follows:

Plans and particulars relating to:

Private Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Alterations and Additions	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Conversion of Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drainage Systems (Installations and alterations)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Schools (Alterations and additions)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Licenced Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dairy Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Farm Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Private Garages	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Accesses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Advertisement Signs	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Overhead Lines for Midlands Electricity Board	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Overhead Lines for Private Persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Poultry Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tool sheds, garden sheds and cycle sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Erection of Club Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Change of use of land	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Village Halls	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Erection of Shop and Dwelling	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Installation of Petrol Storage Tanks	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sites for Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Site for Shop and Dwelling	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sites for Private Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Sites for Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total							126

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING.

Nothing further has been received from the County Planning Committee following the representation made in 1952 with a view to delegated powers being given to the Council under Part III of the Act of 1947.

Now that the County Development Plans have been approved, it is suggested that District Councils should be given greater responsibility for dealing with local development.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT AND CARBIDE.

Towards the end of the year petrol storage capacity amounted to 23,450 gallons.

There are six petrol filling stations and 35 private storage tanks, licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit.

No licences were issued during the year for the storage of carbide.

HOP-PICKERS' DWELLINGS.

Number of farms having accommodation for Pickers	3
--	---

Number of visits made during the year	15
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Inspections revealed that less hop-pickers' accommodation was required this season, this being due to the use of machinery on the larger farms and also on account of more local labour being available for hand picking on the smaller farms.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The control of milk is administered by the National Agricultural Advisory Service.

SCHOOL MILK.

By arrangement with the County Council samples of milk are obtained and submitted for bacteriological and biological examination.

Number of Bacteriological samples taken	23
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Number of Biological samples taken	10
--	----

Total	33
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SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND BUTCHERS SHOPS.

There are two Private Slaughterhouses in the area, both of which have been used regularly during the past twelve months.

During the year 63 Beasts, 79 Pigs, 308 Sheep and 6 Calves were slaughtered at the two establishments and after inspection the following meat or offal was considered to be unfit for human consumption and was voluntarily surrendered:

- 4 Pig's Heads.
- 4½ Bovine Livers.
- 1 Beast's Head.
- 1 Calf's Liver.
- 1 Calf's Fore Leg (shin).
- 1 whole Pig's Carcass and Organs.
- 3 whole Sheep's Carcasses and Organs.
- 12½ Sheep's Livers.

Unsound meat and offals are disposed of under direct supervision on the Council's premises, except that whole carcasses, after colouring, are conveyed to a Knacker's establishment for processing.

THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ICE-CREAM.

There are no ice-cream manufacturing premises in the area. All ice-cream sold is obtained in pre-packed wrappers from reputable manufacturers and stored in refrigerator containers prior to sale.

Number of ice-cream samples submitted for examination	5
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The list of food premises within the Rural Area is as follows:

Total	...	50
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The following tinned food, which after inspection, was considered to be unfit for human consumption was voluntarily surrendered by the owners and was destroyed:

Food.	Quantity.	Condition.
Processed Peas	15½ ozs.	Blown Containers.
Processed Peas	15½ ozs.	Blown Container.
Baked Beans	16 ozs.	Damaged Container.
Processed Peas	19 ozs.	Blown Containers.
Tomatoes	14 ozs.	Damaged Containers.
Stewed Steak	16 ozs.	Damaged Container.

ANALYSES OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE.

Disease.	Age of Patient.								Total
	0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 and over	Unknown	
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	5
Whooping Cough	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	1	7
Measles	1	17	25	44	16	—	1	2	106
Ac. Pneumonia	—	1	—	3	2	1	3	—	10
Dysentery	—	—	1	3	1	—	1	—	6
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	—	—	—	—	—	3	7	2	12
Tuberculosis (Meninges)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Tuberculosis (Other Forms)	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1955 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of forty-five males and thirty females who normally reside within the district.

During the year fifteen new cases were notified, twelve Pulmonary and three Non-Pulmonary; and five cases moved into the district.

During the same period, fourteen persons recovered, twelve left the district and in one case the notification was withdrawn.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946, SECTION 26.
Vaccination and Immunisation.

Numbers of children in the district who were treated during the year:

Purpose of Injection	... under 1 yr.	Age at date of immunisation or vaccination							Total	Reinforcing Injections
		1 yr.	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15 & Over		
Immunisation against Diphtheria	...	32	47	3	2	4	37	2	—	127
Immunisation against Whooping Cough	...	35	17	1	2	3	—	—	—	58
Vaccination against Smallpox	...	72	4	—	2	—	—	—	2	80
										20

Vaccination and Immunisation are a County Council responsibility and the figures given above have been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages).

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	1	3	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	6	9
Vascular lesions of nervous system...	1	10	11
Coronary disease, angina	6	2	8
Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	1	2
Other heart disease	3	4	7
Other circulatory disease	3	3	6
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	1	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Congenital malformations	—	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	2	8
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	—	1
All other accidents	1	1	2
Total:	32	40	72

